

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3 through 8, and 10 through 12 are pending, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5 through 8, and 10 through 12 have been amended. The specification has been amended to attend to formal matters.

The title was objected to. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the title in a manner earnestly believed to avoid the grounds of objection.

Claims 5 and 6 were objected to and the Official Action kindly suggested the use of the expression "print rate". All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claims to utilize that expression.

Claims 5 through 8 and 12 were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have respectfully maintained said claims in dependent form as Applicants earnestly believe that the claims from which they depend will be found to be allowable.

Claims 1 through 4 and 9 through 11 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,845,172 (Saito, et al.), taken alone or in combination with U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0159782 A1 (Tsuruya, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, control means which allows a selection of either a first mode or a second mode, wherein in the second mode, a rotation time of the image bearing member at non-image forming time is prolonged to be longer than that in the first mode and the second voltage is applied to the charging member in the prolonged rotation time in combination with cleaning means contactably provided to the image bearing member and cleaning the developer that remains.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Saito, et al. nor Tsuruya, et al., even in the proposed combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed combination of features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features. Furthermore, the taking of Official Notice is respectfully traversed in the absence of a cited document. MPEP 2144.03.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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